

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification as follows: please insert the following paragraph after the last paragraph on page 7 beginning with "Figure 2H shows another embodiment ..." and before the first paragraph on page 8 beginning with "Use of GellycombTM is highly valuable..."

A padding layer of GellycombTM buckling column elastomer as described in United States Patent No. 6,026,527, can include a yieldable cushioning element having a flexible, resilient, gel cushioning media that has shape memory and that is substantially solid and non-flowable at temperatures below 130 degrees Fahrenheit. The cushioning element can include a quantity of gel cushioning media formed to have a top, a bottom, and an outer periphery, such that the cushioning media is compressible so that it will deform under the compressive force of a cushioned object. A plurality of hollow columns may be formed in the cushioning media wherein each of the columns has a longitudinal axis along its length, a column wall that defines a column interior, and two ends. The columns are positioned with their column ends at two different points on the column axis such that at least one of the columns is positioned generally parallel to the direction of a compressive force exerted on the cushioning element by a cushioned object, and at least one of the column walls is then capable of buckling beneath a protuberance.